

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2014



IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Council returned from winter break on January 13 and we are off and running for the new year.

Mother Nature is definitely challenging the City's ability to tackle the tasks that come with such severe weather conditions.

Snow and ice removal in Fayette County is a combined effort of the City's Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works and the Kentucky Department of Highways. Public Works is responsible for snow and ice removal from more than [1,110 lane miles of city and county roads](#) (excluding 28 private streets in the 9th district which the City does not maintain). The state is responsible for plowing more than [500 miles of roadways in Fayette County](#). Despite everyone's best efforts, some of our side streets and neighborhoods are still potentially hazardous. Drifting snow and sub-freezing temperatures definitely hinder snow and ice removal efforts. The response is being monitored and reviewed to see where we can improve going forward. I appreciate your understanding and the ongoing work of these hard-working crews, especially under the conditions they have faced.

The City has a sufficient amount of salt on hand to get through at this point and more is on order. To report roadway snow/ice issues, dial 3-1-1. A map indicating the various priority snow removal routes pertaining to the 9th District can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

During the period of January 20-27, Lexington Police responded to 554 non-injury and 44 injury accidents and Lexington Fire & EMS responded to 253 fire runs and 694 ambulance runs. We are fortunate to have such dedicated police and fire public servants serving our community.

Snow, ice and below zero temperatures have also had an impact on residential waste and recycling



The City had 42 salt trucks plus three salt brine trucks working around the clock this past weekend. Go to [BeReadyLexington.com](#) for severe weather, extreme cold and winter weather driving tips.

collections in some neighborhoods. Residents whose Herbie and Rosie containers have not been serviced are requested to leave the containers on the curb until collection trucks can reach them. Collection trucks can be difficult to maneuver under the best of conditions and represent an even tougher challenge in the wintry weather Lexington is experiencing. All missed routes will be worked by crews until they are completed.

Time-Warner Cable. The City's General Services Division is winding up their efforts to collect input on Time-Warner Cable's service in Lexington. A workshop has been set for February 13 for the entire City Council to meet with the City's Legal Department to ask any remaining questions and to discuss the specific federal and state laws pertaining to the current cable franchise agreement. **If you are experiencing problems, e-mail me as soon as possible at jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov.**

As always, please forward this newsletter to anyone who may have an interest in receiving it. Thank you. Stay warm!

CALENDAR:

Feb. 8: Wild Game Dinner. 6 p.m.
Southern Heights Baptist Church.

Feb. 10 - March 3: Parks and Recreation's Adult spring softball league sign-ups. Register [here](#).

Feb. 22: Walk for Warmth at Triangle Park. 10:00 a.m. Register [here](#).

Feb. 28: Deadline to submit SYEP applications. (See page 4.)

March 3: Deadline for 2014 Neighborhood Sustainability Grants applications. (See page 3.)

View the [City Calendar](#)

To have your upcoming event noted in a future newsletter, please e-mail rbolson@lexingtonky.gov



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CLAYS MILL ROAD WIDENING UPDATE



Lane closures on Clays Mill Road will continue to April.

It was announced in the news this past week that Governor Steve Beshear's new state road plan proposes spending approximately \$4.6 million in 2015 to widen Clays Mill Road from New Circle Road to Keithshire Way. This is considered phase "2C" of the comprehensive Clays Mill Road widening project.

The proposal is just one of several major road construction projects proposed for key arteries around Lexington and the Commonwealth. The Lexington Herald-Leader describes the Governor's six-year \$7 billion dollar road plan as a "wish list" of sorts that outlines all highway work the state wants to accomplish over the next six years. Historically, such a draft plan is often changed by lawmakers. I will pass along any new update as I receive it.

Phase 2B of the widening project continues and is still on schedule, however an extension of time for the current lane closure on Clays Mill Road at Man o' War was requested. Traffic Engineering only issues lane closure permits for periods of 60 days. The most recent update from the City's Engineering Division is that the current lane closures will continue to April.

PROPERTY EASEMENTS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

What is an Easement? An easement gives a person, agency or other entity (such as the government or a utility company) the right to use a portion of your property. The use permitted by the easement often includes the right to conduct any necessary maintenance activities, which could include digging. The easement can also restrict how you use that portion of the property.

You will want to be aware of the location and nature of any easements for utilities, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, drainage or other purposes and how they could affect your current or future building plans, such as adding a patio or garage or perhaps a business seeking to add additional signage. However, even though an easement may limit your use of that part of the property, you are still responsible for all normal maintenance. This is particularly important if you have to maintain a large open drainage area or a storm-water detention basin. To determine if there are any easements on your property, you can obtain a copy of your property's plat from the court house.

A home buyer purchasing a property may also discover the City already has an easement for a portion of the property being purchased. A home owner requesting the right to encroach into an easement must have permission from the holder of the easement, whether it is the City or a private utility company. An encroachment into an easement could damage the property and result in unsafe conditions for the surrounding area.

To request the right to encroach into an easement held by the Division of Water Quality, contact:

Patrick McFadden, Engineering Technician Senior
LFUCG, Division of Water Quality
301 Lisle Industrial Road
Lexington, KY 40511

859-425-2457

patrickm@lexingtonky.gov



NEIGHBORHOOD SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

Lexington residents seeking an opportunity to help improve the city's environment are invited to apply for a 2014 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant. Lexington's Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works is providing the grants, which are to be used by residents to work collaboratively and creatively to improve the environmental health of Lexington.

Grants are available for a wide range of projects including rain gardens, green roofs, community gardens, streamside restoration, recycling programs, beautification projects (outside only), rain barrel projects, the cleanup and restoration of illegal dumpsites, litter cleanups, street tree plantings and other projects that are determined to improve the environmental health of the community and meet the principles of sustainability.

Public and private schools, all neighborhood and homeowner associations that are incorporated and have a complete slate of elected officers, churches and other nonprofits are eligible to apply for these grants.

Eligible applicants may apply for a maximum amount of \$2,500. These grants require a 100% match. A match can be materials, in-kind services or a combination of both. Documentation must be provided on the value of all in-kind supplies, materials and services. In-kind matches may include items such as documented use of vehicles or machinery, meals served to volunteers or volunteer hours worked.

More information and application materials about this grant opportunity are available at the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works website at www.lexingtonky.gov/greengrants.

Applications must be postmarked or submitted to the department's office by 4:30 p.m. on March 3, 2014. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the grant application by mail please contact Louise Caldwell-Edmonds at (859) 425-2800 or via e-mail at louisec@lexingtonky.gov.



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE 65+, AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS

Many 9th District residents may not be taking advantage of a simple opportunity to lower their property taxes.

The Homestead Exemption is a constitutional provision to reduce taxes for homeowners at least 65 years of age or who are disabled and receive disability payments. The exemption lowers the taxable value of your home; for 2014, the exemption would make the first \$36,000 of your home's value not taxable.

Exemptions are available only on properties which, as of January 1 each year, are owned by and the primary residence of the applicant. Only one exemption is available per property and recipients cannot have exemptions on other properties here

or in other counties or states.

Any homeowner turning 65 in 2014 can apply now for the exemption and would receive the full benefit of it on the 2014 tax bill.

Disabled homeowners must receive benefits for total disability from a retirement system, including Social Security, for all of 2014 in order to qualify. Applicants must provide an award letter or other proof from the retirement system to prove they are receiving disability payments.

Applications and further information can be found at www.fayette-pva.com/exemptions or by contacting Lori Kidwell at 859-246-2722, ext. 238 or at Lori.Kidwell@ky.gov.



PLEDGE TO PICK IT UP, LEXINGTON.



Report a litter bug whenever you see litter being tossed from a vehicle. A letter will be mailed to the vehicle's owner reminding them of the \$500 maximum fine for littering. [Make a report.](#)

The Lexington Division of Police Training Section is hosting the first annual Lexington Division of Police Women's Law Enforcement Symposium on February 8, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Southland Christian Church's Richmond Road campus. The symposium is free. Seating is limited. Interested parties may register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WRSC2RT>. For additional information contact Officer Jeff Jones at (859) 425-2325 or jjones@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov



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JoinLexPD

LFUCG 2014 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The LFUCG Summer Youth Employment Program provides paid employment opportunities to youths in Lexington between the ages of 14 and 17 for six weeks during the summer. Youths work in various businesses and organizations across the city. The program is designed to provide a real and meaningful work experience.

Job shadowing, mentorship and career guidance are important features of the popular program. Youths participate in work readiness and life skills workshops throughout the summer.

Applications will become available on February 1st. **The deadline to apply is February 28 by 4 p.m.** Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis and all required documentation must be received by the deadline.

Apply online at www.lexingtonky.gov. Click on "Lexington Now" and then "Job Openings" for the position "Summer Youth Worker."

Space is limited. It is recommend that youths apply early. Youths participating in the Youth Employment Enhancement Program receive priority placement.

For more information on the program, contact Mattie Morton at (859) 246-4300 or download the [SYEP 2014 Fact Sheet](#).



Applications are now available. The deadline to apply is February 28 by 4 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO TEACH SENIORS HOW TO USE COMPUTER TABLETS AND THE INTERNET

AARP volunteers are now available to teach adults 50+ how to use computer tablets to find resources on care-giving and the aging process. It's a free program sponsored by the AARP and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Office of Aging and Disability Support.

Volunteers will be at the Charles Young Community Center at 540 East Third Street once a week to help seniors and care-givers gain the knowledge they need to use tablets and Wi-Fi to research virtually any question they have about aging.

The volunteers are equipped with Galaxy tablets and free Wi-Fi and are available from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays at the resource room at the Young Center.

The program at Charles Young is the first AARP program of its kind in Kentucky.

The volunteers will be available to help research topics on the Internet or to teach participants how to use the tablets to find information themselves.



FREE SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

In the United States, two thirds of all residential fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoke detector. Your first line of defense in a residential fire is early detection. A working detector could help you and your family get out safely.

The Lexington Fire Department is committed to Fire Prevention and the safety of our citizens. Through a federal grant and the work of our Fire Prevention Bureau, the Lexington Fire Department has purchased smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and 9 volt batteries. The Fire Department will be installing new detectors and detector batteries free of charge to Fayette County citizens who are over the age of 50 or disabled.

For more information on our smoke detector program you can contact the Lexington Fire Department Community Services at (859) 231-5668 or go to www.lexingtonky.gov/lexfire-education and click the service request form tab on the left.



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION OFFICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2013, the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness recommended that Lexington create an office to coordinate services to the homeless and to individuals in danger of becoming homeless. Subsequently, the Council approved funding in the amount of \$150,000 to create the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention and the City will soon hire its first coordinator of the newly created office.

The office will help coordinate the implementation of recommendations within the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness Report and related initiatives, improve collaboration among LFUCG, community partners and service providers, and help develop innovative strategies to improve the effectiveness of Lexington's efforts to address homelessness.

The City is currently accepting applications for the coordinator position. For more information, go to jobs.lexingtonky.gov/careers.

The Mayor's Commission also recommended increasing the existing tax the City levies on insurance premiums on policies such as life, casualty, home and automobile insurance by 1 percent to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Lexington. It is estimated that increasing the tax from 5 percent to 6 percent would increase premiums for the average household in Lexington by approximately \$15 annually and raise about \$4 million for the fund.

What are your thoughts on the proposed 1% tax increase? Please e-mail me your feedback at jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov.



NEW SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

An informational update meeting on Lexington's proposed new Senior Center at Idle Hour Park occurred at the Area Agency on Aging on January 29. The Senior Services Commission invited Council members and stakeholders from the Idle Hour neighborhood, Southland Christian Church, participants from the Senior Center and students from The Learning Center School at Linlee to participate.

The agenda included reviewing the results from the New Senior Center Questionnaires, review of the proposed programs at the new center and general questions and comments. The design team for the new center was also introduced at the 90-minute meeting.

Proposed amenities, exercise programs, creative programs, educational and support programs, and flexible use space were all topics of discussion.

In 2013, the Council approved spending \$5 million for land acquisition and the design of the new center. The center's design is currently being developed and it is anticipated that the new center could open as soon as the fall of 2015. The current center located on Nicholasville Road was built in 1983.

I will keep you posted on any future meetings seeking public input.





FROM THE OFFICE OF
COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI

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Lexington, KY 40507

Contact Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti:
Phone: 859-258-3215

E-mail: jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov

Legislative Aide:

Rob Bolson

Phone: 859-425-2564

E-mail: rbolson@lexingtonky.gov

Be sure to "Like" on Facebook:

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OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...

- Mayor Gray gave his "State of the City" address at Lexington's Hyatt Regency on January 21. Among other items, the Mayor touched on how he and the Council worked together during 2013 to fix long-standing financial problems and the need to make Lexington a more vibrant city that attracts high-paying jobs going forward. To read a complete transcript of the Mayor's remarks, [click here](#).
- Emergency Shelters.** During the extreme cold weather we've been experiencing lately, many people have been concerned about our homeless population. As we all know, Lexington is a very caring community and a number of agencies, churches and individuals have worked hard to make sure any person in need and willing to accept help has had a place to stay warm. Special thanks to our police officers who have helped in the effort to get people into our emergency shelters. If you see someone who might be in need of shelter, please call the Hope Center at 252-7881 or the Lexington Police non-emergency number at 258-3600.
- Donations Needed for Fire Victims.** An effort is underway to collect clothing and monetary donations for the family who lost their home and possessions to a fire on Winthrop Drive on January 30. For information on what is needed (sizes, etc.) and where to donate, visit: <http://cmebenezer.com/family-loses-home-to-fire>
- The Mary Todd Lincoln House will celebrate **Presidents' Day** on Monday, February 17 with an event for children and their families. The event will run from 11am to 2pm, with activities focusing on Mrs. Lincoln and the role of the First Lady. The annual event is designed for children ages 5-10, but it is free to all students in grades K-12. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Members free; other adults \$10. The Mary Todd Lincoln House is located at 578 West Main Street.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

LexCall (City Hall)	311
Police (Non-emergency)	258-3600
Fire (Non-emergency)	231-5600
Columbia Gas	800-432-9345
Fayette County Clerk	253-3344
Fayette County Sheriff	252-1771
Garbage Collection	425-2255 or 311
Health Dept.	252-2371
Humane Society	225-9033
Ky. Utilities	255-0394
Ky. American Water	800-678-6301
Lexington Public Library	231-5500
Senior Citizen Center	278-6072
Time-Warner Cable	514-1400
Traffic Hotline	258-3830
Voter Registration	255-8683
United Way	211



The Fayette County Sheriff's Office is collecting winter clothing items (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, etc) in conjunction with Seeds of Hope. If you have items to contribute, they can be dropped off at any Republic Bank & Trust location in Lexington or call the FCSSO at 859-252-1771 and they will pick up your donations.

Sign of the times.

Do you remember this?

A tip of the hat and thank you to Carl Johnson for this vintage photo of the South Point subdivision entrance sign, circa the 1970s/'80s.

Do you have vintage photographs of 9th District history? Send them to jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov.



Image courtesy of Carl Johnson.

Share the news! Do you know someone who might also enjoy reading this monthly newsletter? Please forward a copy to them. If you are not currently a subscriber, please e-mail rbolson@lexingtonky.gov to be added to the e-mail list.